Labor camp poised for significant changes pg 4

WCA announces "Touching Heat push Lives" HIV/AID candlelight pg 9 to NBA ...

Heat push Celtics close to NBA ... pg 15

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Wednesday, May 11, 2011

THE SINGIEWS

Cost of energy production to drop by 50% in two years



Mike de Meza

The government is working towards reducing the cost of energy production by 50% in a lapse of two years. This, according to the government will reduce our dependence on petroleum for the production of water and electricity. After a meeting called by the AVP and PDR fractions in Parliament to discuss the matter of the government's energy management, was postponed for one week, due to the opposition's request for copies of pertinent documents, Mike de Meza made the following observations:

ment all the information of the global, regional and local effects of the dramatic rise in energy cost. We foresaw these problems for some years now, and as a responsible Minister I want to give Parliament the information of the effects that all these matters have on the production

of our water and electricity. We also want to inform our legislators about the projects that are ongoing and what these will mean for Aruba in the next few years."

The government has analyzed the entire situation with respect to the tariffs of water and electricity, and, according to de Meza, the final price is accurate. The price consists of two factors: energy surcharge (brandstofclausule) and other expenses. These two components were analyzed and it proves that the energy surcharge is comprised of other costs which are not oil. A small part of the cost is to cover other types of expenditures. In the

final analysis there is no change in the electricity tariff

Regarding the "brandstofclausule" (energy surcharge), the Minister explained that apparently the mention of eliminating this from the electricity tariff was taken out of context. The designation "brandstofclausule" will not be taken off our energy bills regardless of whatever type of combustion we use. What will alleviate our people, he continued, is the removal of the continuous change and instability of the price of oil.

This, the Minister claims is the brunt of the energy surcharge. The dire effect it has on the price when it fluctuates is what the government will eliminate.

In an effort to accomplish this, the government has introduced different projects to counteract the international effects on fuel oil, which it is believed will continue to rise in the coming years.

The government intends to begin a campaign to make our people more aware of the use of more efficient apparatus, and on generating alternative energy.

The government has also changed the system for producing water and electricity. They have gone from the use of boilers to reciprocating motors, which also uses petroleum but functions in a much more efficient manner.

De Meza claims that by the end of the third quarter of 2011 WEB's form of generating electricity will change about 90% while still using petroleum. The system for the production of water will also change. Already 25% of the production of water is by sea water reverse osmosis and by the second quarter of 2012 our water will be almost produced completely by sea water reverse osmosis. This will be still another effort in reducing our dependency on petroleum by 15% and is substantial reduction in our operational costs. The wind mills will be doubled to achieve about 35% to 40% of our electricity by means of the wind, which will also reduce our operational costs.

Finally, it is the intention to build a solar energy plant of about 10megawatts.

According to de Meza, the final step in the process is to begin using liquefied gas instead of petroleum. The gas reserves globally are 100%. For our people this will mean a reduction of almost 50% in the cost of the production of electricity. The minister finalized his information with the comment that..."what Aruba cannot control are the global effects in the event of the increase of the price of gas. Hence, Aruba must have her own gas."

Drastic changes expected in Department of Labor

By the end of the third week of June the changes at the Department of Labor will take effect. There will be the separation of Labor Provisions (Arbeidsvoorziening) from the Department of Labor.

The Council of Ministers has concurred with Minister of Labor, Otmar Oduber, on the changes that he has been working on for more than a year now. The new organization will be more focused on helping the client, on those seeking advice or assistance.

The entire process will be revamped. In the past, a person seeking employment would go to the Office and register at the Job Center. He will then be presented with a list of the current job vacancies. If the next day an employer registers a job vacancy, the person who came the day before seeking employment would not be notified, which means he would never be aware of the vacancy that he potentially could fill. This situation will not be repeated, and would be considered a thing of the past.

The new system will be completely computerized where employer vacancies will be readily matched to a list of registered job seekers for all professions.

The old system, where employers deceived the Department with respect to employees and employees deceived the Department with respect to their employment, will be eliminated.

Those seeking employment will be required to fill out a new form and register; and for every vacancy each registrant will be called in. The person in question will proceed to the Labor Provisions department, collect his form (3 copies of same) with which he will proceed to the employer. Together the form is filled out giving informa-



Otmar Oduber

tion with respect to the reason(s) the person was hired or was denied employment. Each person is then required to submit a copy of this dec-laration to the Labor Provisions department. In the event that an employer refuses to present said declaration on 3 occasions, he will be placed on the "yellow list" and will not be assisted in the future as it appears that he is a 'joker.' In the past, these employers complained that no one responded to the vacancy announcement or that there were no suitable candi-

In the event that a job seeker refuses to turn in the declaration on 3 occasions, he too will be 'yellow listed' and will no longer be assisted in his job search. This is especially applicable to those who prefer to remain on welfare and who don't really want to work.

This means that in the future anyone who gets the opportunity to become employed, but appears in an inappropriate manner and shows no interest in working, a negative advice will be submitted to the Department of Social Affairs. Said advice will curtail any possibility for getting any type of welfare.

Continued on page 4

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY:

US expects to grill NATO bombs rock Tripoli, Libya bin Laden women 'soon'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States said it expects Pakistan will "soon" let it question three widows of Ósama bin Laden apprehended during the commando raid that killed him, despite Islamabad's fury over the operation.

But Pakistan said that it had received no formal request for access to the women, as further details emerged of the backdrop to the dramatic May 2 assault in which the Al-Qaeda kingpin was shot dead by US

Bin Laden's Yemeni wife, who was shot in the leg, has told Pakistani investigators that they lived in the compound where bin Laden was killed in the garrison town of Abbottabad -- near Islamabad -- for five years.

With the pivotal US-Pak-

istan relationship under severe strain, the White House had called on Islamabad to help counter growing mistrust by granting American investigators access to the women.

"The United States expects to be granted access soon," a US official said, without providing more details. The three wives, along with several children, have been in Pakistani custody since the raid.

Pakistan's foreign ministry said it had "not received a formal request from the United States" to question them, while a Pakistani military official told AFP that "so far no decision in this regard has been taken""The family's under

meanwhile reported that the elite US Navy SEALs who gunned down bin Laden had permission to kill Pakistani forces if necessary.

US-led war on terrorism cenin Afghanistan. But tense relations have been stretched even further by the discovery of bin Laden living less than a mile

anonymity, said the CIA had no plans to withdraw its top spy from Islamabad after his identity was allegedly divulged NATO strikes across Libya LIBYA Fierce fighting ₩ NATO raids

Map of Libya showing main developments

TRIPOLI, Libya (AFP) – A NATO bombing blitz, which the alliance insisted was not aimed at Moamer Kadhafi, rocked Tripoli yesterday, as rebels in besieged Misrata claimed to be pushing back the Libyan strongman's forces.

The United Nations, meanwhile, said the offensive launched by Kadhafi's forces was paralysing the oil-rich nation and causing the population to suffer widespread shortages of essential goods.

Kadhafi's compound, but the mission's chief operations officer, Brigadier General Claudio Gabellini, denied that aim had been to take out the Libyan leader.

'All NATO targets are military targets, which means that the targets we've been hitting, and it happened also last night in Tripoli, are command and control bunkers," Gabellini told reporters.

"NATO is not targeting individuals," he said via videolink from his headquarters in Naples, Italy.

Asked whether Kadhafi was still alive, the Italian general said: "We don't have any evidence. We don't know what Kadhafi is doing right now."

He added later: "To tell you the truth, we are not really interested in what he's doing. Our mandate is to protect civilians from attacks or from the threats of attacks, so we are not looking after individuals."

Kadhafi had survived a similar NATO bombing on May 1 in Tripoli, which killed his second-youngest son, Seif al-Arab, and three of his grandchildren.

The rebels said they had driven Kadhafi's forces back from around Misrata, which has been under loyalist siege for some two months, and were poised to make another

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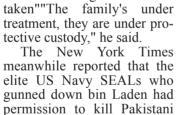
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Pakistan is a key ally in the

A US official, speaking to in a Pakistani newspaper.





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Is Crime increasing in Aruba? **Does perception Count?**

By: Roland W. Peterson

In almost every conversation someone brings up the topic 'crime.'

Daily we see pictures of the "break ins" and vandalism of properties. Daily there is a cry for help against the choler problem. Is crime really dramatically increasing in Aruba?

When there is a perception that crime is rising, people of all segments feel more insecure, particularly vulnerable groups, e.g. women, the elderly, the sick and the poor and not to forget the business people (shop owners) themselves.

It is possible that public perception of security does not always reflect the actual situation. But does perception really count?

Public perception may be created or manipulated through intentional or unintentional processes.

Perception is an impression in the mind of something perceived by the senses, like hearing, smelling seeing etc. It is an insight, an intuition or knowledge gained by perceiving.

When there is a perception and you don't get any information you then start to speculate and when you speculate it is often in a negative way. For years now we, the citizens, have a perception that crime is increasing. Very little or should I say, never, does any authority step up to the plate with the facts. So we the citizens start to speculate and now our perception is: "Crime is increasing" But should we follow our perception or should we look for the facts? Does perception count?

Public perceptions may be created or manipulated through intentional or unintentional processes.

As a result overreacting of individuals and other pressure groups, one can become overloaded with information about public security issues to the point of losing interest or becoming disillusioned and cynical. You run the risk that the citizen will then refrain from making an official complain to the police.

At this moment there is a public outrage against the "choler problem" whom the public assumes is responsible for most of the "break ins' and destruction of property.

Often is voiced the need to get tougher on crime by increasing the severity of sentences or by requiring mandatory prison terms for particular crimes and also to give the police more investigative authority.

I wonder how much the public's opposition will be, if the government today proposes and implements more punitive and authoritarian methods of control and punishment, to combat the "choler problem."

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total number of crimes committed:	6412	4236	5933	5511	5643	6277	5690	4864
Traffic accidents:	9583	3053	6045	6322	6246	5858	6223	7856
Follow death:	16	18	14	13	14	18	20	14
Source: Yearbook Police Aruba	Total nu	mber of a	ccidents	(excl. the	districts S	an Nicol	as and N	Voord)

2. Crimes and traffic violations by district:

	· ·							
Oranjestad Voord	5444 327	2830 - (*)	3059 1453	2939 650	3162 982	3014 1022	2706 1008	2041 1158
								1239
Santa Cruz	127	65	221	567	367	621	681	426
otal:	7947	4235	5933	5511	5643	6277	5690	4864
raffic accidents:								
Oranjestad	5346	2466	3038	3172	3410	2790	3306	3512
Joord .	1245	- (**)	1192	1266	1108	1174	1136	1895
San Nicolas	1879	- (**)	1010	1004	992	999	1032	1316
Santa Cruz	1113	587	805	880	736	895	799	1133
otal:	9583	3053	6045	6322	6246	5858	6223	7856
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Every time you ask someone, how does he/she know that crime has increased?

The answer is almost always the same: "I can see it. I can feel it. Every day it is in the press and media, so it must have increased.'

Even though it appears every day in the press and media it is still "no fact" that crime is rising.

As a retired police chief who is still dedicated to the principle of reporting facts, whether or not they set 'free or convict," I turned to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) to get some figures.

(*) Excl. district Noord

The figures shown above are from the CBS, whose source is the Yearbook Police

In a period of eight years (2002- 2009 incl.) it does not reflect that the total number of crimes committed in Aruba is increasing. If any-

thing, the numbers seem to suggest a slight decline.

(**) Excl. district Noord and San Nic.

Bear in mind it is not what I say, it is the figures that

How much this amount is in a population percentage of 2009 compared to 2002, I could not show. (Getting the Census Bureau on the telephone seems to be mission impossible).

Continued on page 4

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Is Crime increasing in Aruba?

Continud from page 3

Looking at the figures one would expect that the population should be equally concerned about traffic accidents than that of crime.

Also bear in mind that not in the analysis (figures), there is also a dark number of crimes that is not reported to the police.

Even if there is not an increase in crime, there is still a strong perception that it did.

With this article I hope that the reader, after looking at the figures, can self decide if he/she thinks that crime has increased in Aruba.

Scaring the population and the tourists, without first getting the facts, does not help solve the problem.

Aruba's police are doing their job pretty well. Aruba is a safe place and destination for tourists.

In June 2009. Aruba was placed on the international MSNBC-Forbes Traveler's List as one of the world's safest places to visit. At least let's give our law-enforcers a little credit.

Aruba was the only country in the region that had a perfect score in the yacht crime survey.

Please let's keep it this

A special thanks to CBS, which promptly facilitated me with the information.

Labor camp poised for significant changes

ORANJESTAD The changes expected from the Department of Labor are many and significant.

Minister of Labor, Otmar Oduber, said that it became obvious that the Department of Labor was not functioning mostly because of the previous management situation.

One example cited was the administration program for which the government paid almost 1 million Aruban florins 4 years ago, but which has never functioned. Another example was the lack of laws to execute sanctions on those who fail to comply with certain labor laws.

Since last October, meetings were held with different employment organizations and workers and they produced 5 different laws. One of these laws was the Aruba civil code, which entails the phenomena of the "on call" situation. This situation allowed an employer to employ someone on an indefinite contract basis where the employer decides how many hours he will work and when he can be sent home and again when he can be called back to work. This obviously created an unstable financial situation for such employees.

The law has been adjusted to take care of this situation in the

With respect to Employment Agencies, a law has been enacted to safeguard the em-

Big changes have been enacted regarding employment disputes. This will afford a mediator more tools with which to work when dealing with employee/employer schisms.

Another change to be implemented is with respect to minimum wages. In the past, the old law allowed employers to use the trick of deducting personal tips from the employee's income so as to reach the legal minimum wage. This was being used in large measure by many employers. This is no longer possible. An employer cannot use personal tips earned to add to one's salary as minimum wage, nor for salaries stipulated in a contract.

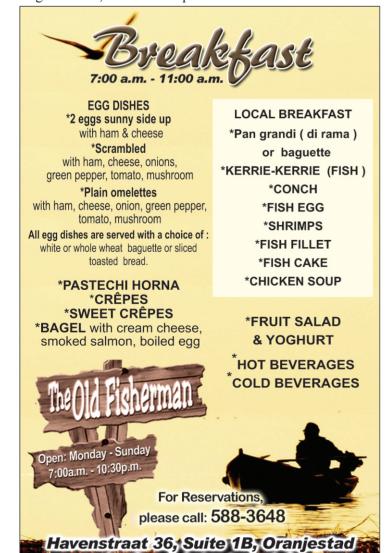
Another significant change is for the event a company declares bankruptcy or is bought over by another concern, or is taken over by another company. In the past, in such situations the company could let go employees at will. The new situation dictates that in the event of a bankruptcy or take

over by another company, the company in question is to remain obligated to each employee for the period of one vear under the identical situation he was in at the time in the event that the employee does not find new employment.

In the past, there were no legal sanctions for failure to comply with the law. Henceforth, everyone who fails to comply will be fined with severe penalties which could be as high as 120 thousand Aruan florins.

The Minister also indicated that these laws were also designed to aid the employer, because we are all aware that not all employees are of good faith, hence it is necessary to equip the employer with the necessary tools so his business can continue to thrive.

The process of negotiation for these changes and new laws took 7 months and last week they signed the document with employment organizations and employees on the more than 200 changes which were incorporated into 5 laws. On 90% of these laws there is a broad consensus. On the remaining 10% the Minister himself reserves the right to decide as Minister of Labor.



(near the main dowtown bus terminal)

Drastic changes expected...

Continued from page 1

In the event of a dispute between the employer and the work permits is handled at one soliciting for the job, and the Department of Labor. why he cannot be hired; this Hence, he has requested that will be handled directly with the employer to ascertain exactly what the reason(s) is why he could not employ the person in question and/or if some agreement could be reached between the two parties.

In view of the upcoming changes, the Minister decided that he wants to see exactly how the process of issuing all work permits be submitted to his office for his scrutiny. It has been observed that there are a number of companies who are intent on deviating from the law to obtain work permits. According to Oduber, by the third week of June we will all see the changes and regain our confidence in this department.



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"Divi Resorts with their Mother's Day Celebration 2011"





Last Friday the Human Resources department organized a wonderful mother's day celebration for the employees of the Divi Resorts hotel chain: Tamarijn Aruba Beach Resort, Divi/Dutch Village, Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, The Links at Divi Aruba, Dal Time N.V. and the Divi Aruba Sales Consultants.

The event was held at Parke Arawa where the moms could enjoy some fun in the sun, with great food, drinks, fun games, wonderful raffle prizes and great music.

During the different games conducted such as dance contests, etc. the employees won different prizes.

The afternoon was closed off with it the election of the Mother of the Year and also the raffling of the many raffle prizes for the lucky mothers that day.

many raffle prizes for the lucky mothers that day.

Mother of the year was Mrs. Yolene Leonidas from the Divi Village Hotel Housekeeping Department. Yolene received a nice tiara, a beautiful bouquet, a dinner for two at any Divi Resorts restaurant of her choice, a nice accessories set from Beauty and the Beast and a perfume set from Passion Body Fragrances & Gifts.

The raffling of the many prizes continued after the election of the Mother of The Year to some lucky mothers

The Human Resources Department would like to thank everyone who helped make this event possible and successful, also a 'thank you' to all the employees who attended this event and hopes that they all enjoyed this afternoon.

"Congratulations to all the winners of the afternoon and we will see everyone at next year's Mother's Celebration! a spokesperson said

The Human Resources Department would like to congratulate the Aruban mothers on their day and hope that they all had a wonderful day.







Sci-Tech

Electric cars take off in Norway



OSLO (AFP) – They speed past gas guzzlers in traffic, ignore congestion charges and get city centre parking for free. In a country whose wealth is fuelled by oil, Oslo has become the world capital of the electric car.

"There are more electric cars per capita here than in any other capital of the world," said Rune Haaland, the head of the electric car users association Norstart, standing in a city centre car park forbidden to other car users.

Almost 4,000 of the small, clean and silent vehicles are on the roads of Norway, although they are found mainly in the cities, and the number is climbing as new models come onto the market.

From the tiny, locally-made Buddy, to the sporty Tesla, which can accelerate from zero to 100 kilometres (62 miles) in less than four seconds, all sorts of electric cars have taken to the roads of the Norwegian capital.

Norway may be one of the world's top fossil fuel exporters, but it has set ambitious climate policy objectives, aiming to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent by 2020.

"The electric car is a very important tool for that, knowing that 40 percent of our emissions come from the transport sector and 60 percent of those come from road transport," Transport Minister Magnhild Meltveit Kleppa told AFP.

According to some esti-

mates, the country's 3,891 electric cars allow it to save over 6,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

To persuade drivers to switch to electric cars, Norway has introduced a string of incentive measures.

Electric cars can use bus lanes and thus bypass traffic jams, they don't have to shell out congestion charges and can park for free on municipal car parks.

New father Christian Blakseth traded his bicycle for an electric car.

"It's very advantageous to be able to park for free downtown and to escape traffic jams," the young train conductor said.

"And you don't get drowned in day-to-day spending: it's a car that is expensive to buy but cheap to use," he said.

Charging an electric car's batteries at home costs about two euros (\$2.90). Norwegian petrol prices are among the highest in Europe.

With growing demand, carmakers are rushing to put out new models.

And consumers are responding with just as much enthusiasm: in the first quarter this year, an electric car, Mitsubishi's i-MiEV, topped small model car sales in Norway, ahead of all time favorites.

"We were planning to sell 400 units (cars) in Norway this year, and we are already at 700. We think we will ultimately reach 1,000," the head of Mitsubishi Norway Bernt

Jessen said.

Despite technological advances, distance remains a problem for electric vehicles, however, with cars only able to go for around 150 kilometres before needing to be recharged.

And with Norway's cold winters slashing battery efficiency, optimal performance is hard to achieve. To get around this obsta-

To get around this obstacle, Norway has decided to put in place a national network of charging stands across the country allowing drivers to "fill up" their cars in about 20 minutes, just long enough to enjoy a roadside cup of coffee, compared to the seven or eight hours normally needed.

The mountain cottage, sacrosanct for Norwegians, could soon be only a few kilowatts away.

NASA expects shuttle Endeavour to launch May 16



WASHINGTON (AFP) – NASA said this week it expects repairs to be done in time for the space shuttle Endeavour to launch as planned on May 16, after a trio of delays due to technical problems in a fuel heating line.

The blastoff will mark the second-to-last mission to the International Space Station

by a US shuttle before the storied program formally ends later this year with the mission of Atlantis, the final space shuttle to retire.

The US space agency confirmed Endeavour's launch time of May 16 at 8:56 am (1256 GMT), set last week after the initial launch attempt was scrubbed hours before liftoff on April 29.

"We've got extremely high confidence... there should be no threats to the 16th launch date," said NASA shuttle program launch integration manager Mike Moses.

However, the delay has pushed back the final launch of the 30-year-old space shuttle program to an undetermined date.

He said rumors that NASA was considering a July 4 launch were unfounded, and that NASA was never targeting the US national holiday of Independence Day as a potential liftoff day.

The problem that delayed Endeavour was traced to a short in the heater circuit associated with Endeavour's hydraulic system, NASA said.

Osama bin Laden hideout a videogame battleground

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) – Images of the Pakistani compound where Osama bin Laden made his final stand have been turned into a videogame battleground.

A software map named fy_abbottabad in reference to the city where a US military team killed the infamous Al-Qaeda leader in a May 2 raid was available Monday as a setting for play in online computer shooter game "Counter-Strike."

The map program described as a creation by "Fletch" had been downloaded more than 6,400 times from gamebanana.com website as of late Monday.

The setting is a virtual version of the compound where bin Laden was shot dead in the raid by US Navy SEALs, but does not feature interiors of buildings. Players battle it out on the grounds of the compound.

Fletch dismissed some online criticism that the bin Laden slaying was too fresh to be made light of in a videogame.

"What a lot of people don't seem to understand is that the only thing this map has in common with Osama is location," Fletch said in a blog post at gamebanana.com.

"I can see how people would think it is in bad taste, but honestly if that's your opinion you may as well protest the whole game (as well as many others)."

"The idea is that the T's (terrorists) have returned to destroy sensitive information before it can be located and taken away."



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Health & Living

Clothing firms 'sexualise' pre-teen girls: study



PARIS, France (AFP) - Some clothing firms in the United States are marketing sexy garments for pre-teen girls, reinforcing a destructive stereotype of female attractiveness, research released said.

Girls as young as six are being pitched clothing that highlights their breasts, buttocks or slimness or sends a message of sensuality, the study says.

Researchers led by Sarah Murnen, a professor of psychology at Kenyon College in Ohio, looked at 15 websites of popular clothing stores, ranging from bargain to high-end sectors of the junior US market.

Using 38 college students, they devised a system to assess the sexiness of various garments, and used this system to grade 5,666 clothing items.

Clothing was rated according to whether it had only childlike characteristics; revealed or emphasised an intimate body part; or had characteristics that were associated with sexiness.

An example of a "child-like" characteristic would be a top with a butterfly print in pastel colours.

In contrast, a bikini was coded as "revealing" because it exposed the waist and part of the chest. The bikini was

considered "emphasising" if, for instance, it outlined each breast with triangular pieces of fabric.

Similarly, highly-decorated back pockets on trousers -- adorned, for instance, with a bird or sequins -- were deemed "emphasising" because they drew attention to the buttocks.

Material that was lingerielike (such as in slinky red or black fabric) or in leopard or zebra prints was categorised as having characteristics associated with sexiness.

Sixty-nine percent of the clothing assessed in the study had only child-like characteristics.

Four percent had only sexualising characteristics, while 25 percent had both sexualising and childlike characteristics. One percent had neither sexualised nor child-like characteristics.

The researchers said the biggest sexualisation was in clothing sold by "tween," or

pre-teen stores, especially Abercrombie Kids, which came under fire in 2002 for selling thong underwear in children's sizes with "wink wink" and "eye candy" printed across the front.

The paper appears in a specialist journal, Sex Roles, published by Germany's Springer publishing house.

Its authors say girls face escalating demands placed to meet the Western stereotype of slimness and sexiness. The pressures of "self-objectification" can lead to body dissatisfaction, depression, low confidence and poor self-esteem.

"The co-occurrence of sexualising and child-like characteristics makes the sexualisation present in girl's clothing covert," it says.

"Confused parents might be persuaded to buy the leopard-pink miniskirt if it's bright pink. Clearly, sexiness is still visible beneath the bows or tie-dye colours."

study: Many Consumers Don't Know What's in a Over-the-Counter Painkillers

-- Few Americans bother to read the labels on over-thecounter pain relievers, nor do they pay much attention to the drugs' ingredients, a new study says.

This lack of awareness could be a main reason why

acetaminophen overdose is a leading cause of acute liver failure in the United States, according to the researchers at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol, is in more than 600 over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription medicines.

Researchers interviewed 45 people in six focus groups and found that only 31 percent knew that Tylenol contained acetaminophen, 19 percent realized Advil contained ibuprofen and about the same number knew that Aleve contained naproxen sodium.

About 75 percent knew Bayer contained aspirin and 47 percent knew Motrin contained ibuprofen.

Fewer than half -- 41 percent -- said they read the ingredients on drug labels.

The fact that many people don't know acetaminophen is present in OTC products is "incredibly alarming," said senior author Michael Wolf, an associate professor of medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

"People may unintentionally misuse these medicines



to a point where they cause severe liver damage," Wolf said in a university news release. "It's easy to exceed the safe limit if people don't realize how much acetaminophen they are taking. Unlike prescription products, there is no gatekeeper, no one monitoring how you take it."

He and his colleagues recommend that a universal icon for acetaminophen should appear on the labels of all medicines that contain it.

The study was funded by McNeil Consumer Healthcare, which makes Tylenol. Wolf has worked as a paid consultant to McNeil.



Combat Dengue

Keep around your house and yard clean

Health Tip: Taking a Home Pregnancy Test

-- Home pregnancy tests are designed to detect a certain hormone that's present in a woman's blood and urine when she's pregnant.

The test must be administered carefully, following all of the product's written instructions.

The Womenshealth.gov web site offers these general guidelines for home pregnancy tests:

- *Make sure the product is not past its expiration date.
- *Follow the label instructions carefully.
- *Wait 10 minutes before checking the results.
- *Take the test first thing in the morning.
- *Wait at least a week after missing your period before taking the test.

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Sunday, May 15

Women's Club of Aruba announces "Touching Lives" HIV/AID candlelight memorial



Organizers of Touching Lives

Annually, tens of thousands of people worldwide light a candle on the occasion of the 28th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. The commemorative inspires efforts by various organizations in over 75 countries to remind their community of those who have lost their lives to AIDS and support those living with HIV while raising awareness of the impact on their families, friends and all society.

This year's international theme, "Touching Lives" highlights how HIV effects the lives of many people, with a reminder as to the need for improved HIV response with more treatment access, better prevention methods and respect for human rights and dignity. These policies and attitudes can allow those infected by HIV to better face the situation and live productive lives, rather than be in denial, thus contributing to the spread of the disease.

The Women's Club of Aruba has been staging HIV/AIDS events for decades; WCA President Mily Henriquez and Project Manager Milagro Ponson joined Dean Ryan Maduro at Aruba's EPI School to announce this year's theme and upcoming event.

The WCA is honored to welcome HIV/AIDS activist from Trinidad and Tobago Yolanda Y. Simon as guest speaker over this coming weekend. She is a signatory to the Pan-Caribbean Partnership (PANCAP) on HIV/AIDS and Founding Member and Executive Director of the Caribbean

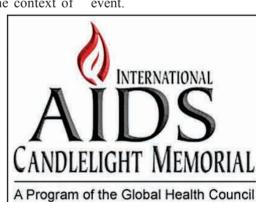
Regional Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, having worked with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO.) She will be speaking on the "HIV/AIDS Stigma & Discrimination in the context of

Human Rights' during a special session media, and will address the community on Sunday evening, May 15 during the Candlelight Memorial to be conducted Palm Beach Plaza from 6:00 to 8:30 pm.

There will also be a special workshop on Monday morning, May 16, for health care providers at the Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino. The subject will be "HIV/AIDS Stigma & Discrimination in the context of Human Rights for Health Care Providers," as they also face higher insurance premiums or denial of coverage and other prejudicial practices, because they dedicate their careers to caring for HIV/AIDS patients.

The Sunday evening event will include performances by popular local vocalists Tica Giel, Jairo Boekhoudt, and Jersey Sofia; Kathy Faro will recite original poetry, and Teen Rapper Chando Held is also scheduled to appear. Various churches will be present, along with representatives of various foundations dedicated to re-

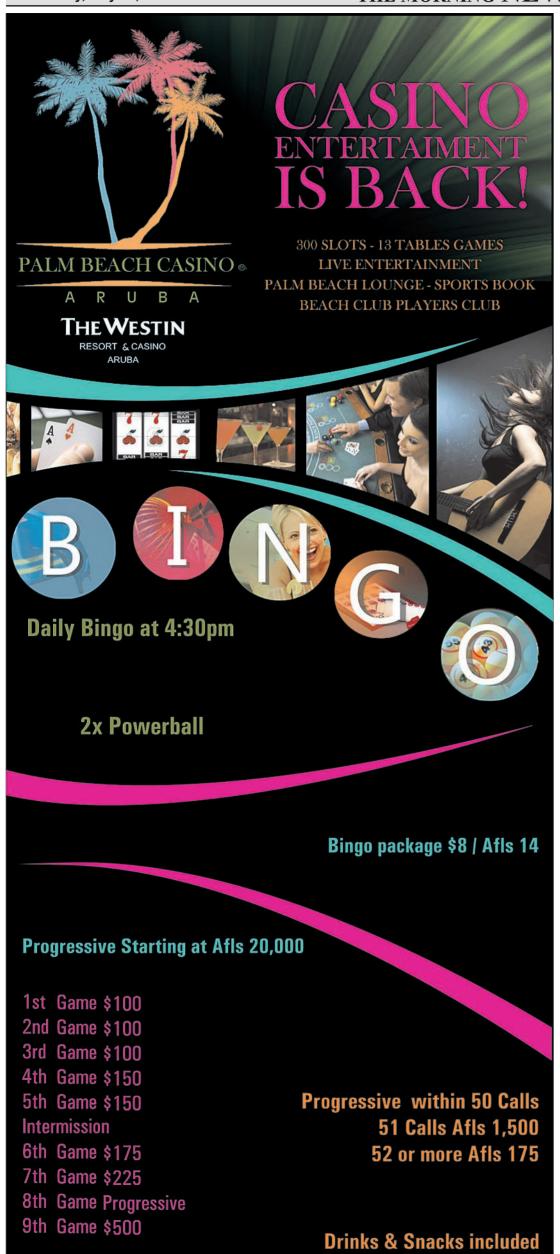
sponsible sexual conduct for all demographics, to provide information and advice. Foundation E Faro, which was founded by Aruba's first reported HIV/AIDS victim, Ruben Odor, now deceased, is a partner in organizing the event



Though HIV/AIDS does not grab the headlines as it did in years past, it is still a global pandemic. Over 6 million of the estimated reported 33 million people living with HIV are receiving treatment, but grave injustices remain, which means many more infected who are afraid to be diagnosed and seek treatment. Medical statistics report 370,000 children are born annually with HIV in low and middle income countries, while parent-tochild transmission has been virtually eliminated in high income countries.

Organizers encourage all the community to join in Sunday's event to get the facts and protest discrimination against the innocent victims of HIV/AIDS.

by Rosalie Klein



Banco di Caribe Aruba N.V. campaign deemed successful



Recently, Banco di Caribe N.V. conducted a campaign titled "Amplia bo bida cu un hipoteca di Banco di Caribe" - "Enhance your life with a mortgage from Banco di Caribe" - where all clients obtaining a mortgage received a ticket to participate in a raffle awarding a gift certificate worth AWG 5,000, to be used at AMC Unicon, a popular outlet for major appliances. The lucky winner was announced as Mrs. Marilyn Goedgedrag-de Lange. Photo shows Branch Manager Mrs. Ariz Mauricio handing the gift certificate to the happy winner. Banco di Caribe N.V. congratulates Mrs. Goedgedrag-de Lange and also extends a 'thank you' to all participants for their confidence in this financial institution.

"Give art a valuable place in your life."

"The Dance" by Waldy Simson included in art collection of UNOCA



A glass work by island artist Waldy Simson titled "The Dance" has become an official part of the collection of works on display at UNOCA, Aruba's cultural funding organization. "The Dance" is an abstract piece measuring 76 x 48.5 cm depicting a dancing figure is deploying twenty two pieces of glass in blue, yellow, red and green.

This is the first such work of art to be included in the UNOCA collection, which is on display at their headquarters situated at the Stadionweg 21 on the eastern outskirts of Oranjestad.

The exhibition room of UNOCA is open from Monday though Friday during office hours.

PICKLES









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ACROSS

- 1. Dawdle
- 4. Was a copycat
- 8. Toothy tools
- 12. "___ Man Higgins"
- 13. Pharaoh's river
- 14. Egyptian goddess
- 15. Tooth-pullers' org.
- 16. Dreidel stakes

12

15

18

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38

- 17. One Columbus ship
- 18. Truth twister

- 20. Org. that helps motorists
- 22. Sounds from a poor speaker
- 23. Dublin residents
- 26. Tennis champ
- Monica 29. Squid's squirt
- 30. Canadian prov.
- 32. "Terrible" czar 33. Behave or
- print preceder
- 34. Vinegary
- 35. "___ and Stimpy"
- 36. "Bali _
- 37. Actress Bow
- 38. Allude (to) 40. Help

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21

41. Rescue

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- - (abbr.) 42. Surmounted

worker

- 46. "I cannot tell " (2 wds.)
- _ deal!" (2 wds.)
- 51. Excitement
- 52. Jack and Jill went up it 53. Bowled over
- 54. Movie studio's inits.
- 55. Vigoda and Burrows
- 56. ___ dry eye in the house (2 wds.)
- 57. "See you later!"

DOWN

14

17

54

- 1. Do nothing
- 2. German car
- 3. Take roughly

- 4. Infuriates 5. Jetties 6. House wing 7. Holds up 8. Egyptian peninsula 9. "Do _ _ say!" (2 wds.) Emerge the victor 11. Retirement benefit agcy.

 - 19. "I've Around"
 - 21. Noah's craft
 - 24. Animal rights
 - gp. 25. Will beneficiary
 - 26. "Camelot" title
 - 27. Happily _ after
 - 28. Path
 - 29. Clock numeral
 - 31. Director Lupino
 - 33. Imaginary space being
 - 34. Actor Alan
 - Skirt's edge
 - 37. Locust's kin
 - 39. Touches
 - 40. Valuable
 - 43. Ewe's baby
 - 44. Anxious
 - 45. Cupola
 - 46. Cry of discovery
 - 47. Ad. (improvise)
- 48. _ de France
- 50. A couple

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Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9 A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

No country immune, UN chief warns as disaster risks grow

GENEVA (AFP) – UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday warned that no country or city was immune from natural or man-made disasters, as a report underlined the soaring, trillion dollar, economic risks the world faces.

Ban told a four-day UN Conference on disaster risk that the devastating earthquake and tsunami in highly-prepared Japan and the ensuing nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant on March 11 gave the world "a grave warning for the future."

"As we have learned again and again no country or city -rich or poor -- is immune," the UN Secretary General said.

A report for the meeting of 2,000 experts and officials estimated that the amount of global wealth exposed to harm by natural disasters had nearly tripled from \$525.7 billion 40 years ago to \$1.58 trillion.

Meanwhile, the risk of economic losses in wealthy (OECD) countries due to

floods has increased by 160 percent over the past 30 years, while for tropical cyclones the risk has grown by 262 percent, the report estimated.

"The risk of losing wealth in disasters is actually increasing faster than that wealth is being created," said Andrew Maskrey, coordinator of the 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction.

"Losses from disasters are often at least as great as those a country is experiencing through high inflation or armed conflict for example," Maskrey told journalists.

The report by the UN's disaster reduction unit said the damage inflicted by mainly natural disasters on housing, infrastructure and public assets such as schools and hospitals was "soaring in many low and middle income countries."

Ban insisted that even small investments could make a difference: "By our actions we can either compound disasters or diminish them."

Greeks bailout audited as eurozone debt storm rages

ATHENS, Greece (AFP) – A Greek debt "disaster" would hit the entire eurozone, a senior European official warned on Tuesday, as an audit of Athens' reform efforts began amid rampant talk of a second bailout or restructuring.

Experts from the European Union, International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank (ECB) began an audit of finances and reforms in Greece to determine if it merits a critical new slice of funding from a bailout package agreed last year.

This was just as a top ECB official warned that debt default or restructuring would hit the entire eurozone.

A restructuring would put Greece's banking system "on its knees," Lorenzo Bini Smaghi told the Italian daily La Stampa. Smaghi, who sits on the ECB executive board, warned of "the contagion that a Greek disaster would inflict on the rest of the eurozone."

The bailout for Greece, put in place a year ago as the result of a deep rethink by EU policy makers and some U-turns by the ECB, involves loans of 110 billion euros (\$157 billion) over three years.

The current audit, although routine, is followed with trepidation in Greece because each such probe leads to recommendations and conditions linked to the next slice of aid.

Greece is struggling to meet its deficit-reduction targets because of a deeper-than-expected recession, and the next 12-billion-euro loan instalment is crucial to its finances.

Microsoft buying Skype for \$8.5 billion



NEW YORK (AFP) -

Microsoft is buying Internet phone service company Skype for \$8.5 billion dollars in a move aimed at carving out a bigger presence in an online arena dominated by Google and Facebook.

The acquisition of Skype, which had reportedly also attracted interest from Cisco, Facebook and Google, is the largest ever by the US software giant.

"Skype is a phenomenal service that is loved by millions of people around the world," Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer said in a statement early Tuesday announcing the purchase.

"Together we will create the future of real-time communications so people can easily stay connected to family, friends, clients and colleagues anywhere in the world."

Microsoft said Skype will become a new business division within Microsoft with Skype CEO Tony Bates assuming the title of president of the Microsoft Skype Division, reporting directly to

Tens of millions of people use Skype to make low cost or free phone calls over the Internet using their computers or smartphones. Skype bypasses the standard telephone network by channeling voice and video calls over the Web.

Buying Skype could be a way for Microsoft to shed some of its business software image and gain momentum in a hot smartphone market at a time when Internet lifestyles are going mobile.

Microsoft's biggest acquisition until now had been its 2007 buy of digital marketing firm aQuantive for \$6.3 billion. Microsoft unsuccessfully buy tried to Yahoo! in 2008 for \$47.5 billion in another bid to make an online

splash.

Microsoft and Skype said the deal has been approved by the boards of directors of both the Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft and the Luxembourg-based Skype, which is owned by investor group Silver Lake.

Bates said Microsoft and Skype "share the vision of bringing software innovation and products to our customers.

"Together, we will be able to accelerate Skype's plans to extend our global community and introduce new ways for everyone to communicate and collaborate," Bates said.

Silver Lake managing director Egon Durban said he is "excited about Skype's long-term future with Microsoft, as it is poised to become one of the world's most dynamic and comprehensive communications platforms."

The companies said Skype will support Microsoft products like the Xbox game console and Kinect motion controller, Windows Phone and a wide array of Windows devices. Microsoft will also support Skype clients on non-Microsoft platforms.

Magnus Rehle, managing director of Greenwich Consulting, said Microsoft is "buying a brand and a big chunk of customers."

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"It could (also) be a defensive strategy from them... to block Facebook and Google from doing it instead," Rehle added.

Analyst Douglas McIntyre of 247WallSt.com said Microsoft "may expect that GAP CPA RI

Skype's primary value will be to drive its search engine share much higher and allow it to more successfully attack Google."

"Microsoft's real motive for a Skype buyout is likely to be to increase its mobile search engine share, something it has been unable to do so far," he said. "Skype may be a cheap ticket to the next huge search market."

Skype was founded in 2003 and acquired by online auction giant eBay in September 2005. It was sold to the investment group led by Silver Lake in November 2009 in a deal that valued the company at \$2.75 billion.

Skype has 170 million users and logged more than 207 billion minutes of voice and video conversations in 2010.

Skype last year announced plans for an initial public offering of stock and appeared on its way to profitability, but investors are evidently eager for a payoff.

Other members of the investor group led by Silver Lake include eBay, CPP Investment Board, Joltid Limited, Europlay Capital Advisors and Andreessen Horowitz.

The acquisition is subject to regulatory approvals which the companies said they expect to obtain this year.

Microsoft shares were down 1.16 percent at \$25.53 shortly after the opening bell on Wall Street.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

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Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their in-

"Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there.'

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning club-



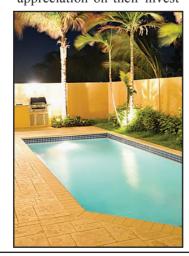
vestment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept.'

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years

house complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their invest-



ment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service, There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and preshopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

Visit their website: www. goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a per-

The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban res- taurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin



Grandma's stoba with classic rice/peas and homemade potato-beat salad

restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring Queen's is open from 11:00 up the delicious dishes that a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offerhave been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with 'Carni Stoba di Mamachi"-'Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture is where the locals like to eat!

of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The ing indoor and outdoor dining They also have daily specials. aside from an extensive menu: made from whatever is in sea-

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner



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WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show. LOCATION: Westin Resort & Casino Aruba

THEATER OPENS: 8:30PM BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM

COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / LOCALS: Afl. 40

TICKETS: at the door, Box office

Westin Lobby, up until **9**PM showtime or any DE PALM concierge desks

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YouTube adds thousands of movies for rent online



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) – YouTube is beefing up its roster of movies for "rent" online in the United States to woo viewers away from television and take on booming Internet service Netflix.

"You're spending just 15 minutes a day on YouTube, and spending five hours a day watching TV," YouTube head Salar Kamangar said in a post at the Google-owned video-sharing website.

"As the lines between online and offline continue to blur, we think that's going to change."

In addition to expanding its online movie roster, YouTube was increasing support for "partners" who create amateur clips that are attracting "TV-sized" audiences at the web-

site, according to Kamangar.

Approximately two billion video views are logged daily at YouTube, which is available on 350 million devices, he noted.

Movies available for streaming as online rentals at YouTube had been mostly older titles but the Googleowned technology firm has

been collaborating with Hollywood studios to find ways to make fresh films available.

YouTube said that it is broadening its rental service at youtube.com/movies with new films from Sony Pictures, Warner Brothers, Universal, Lionsgate Films and "many great independent studios."

"Google recognizes that this is becoming a content war," he continued. "Netflix right now is the company to beat with regard to online video."

Netflix reported that its net profit nearly doubled during the first quarter, when it added 3.6 million new subscribers for a total of 23.6 million.

Google has been striving to win the trust of movie studios

fearful of losing control of digital content on the Internet.

YouTube is making "progress in the right direction" by adding the new films, according to Enderle.

New releases will cost \$3.99 to rent while library titles will cost \$2.99, YouTube product marketing manager Camille Hearst said in a blog post.

People will have 30 days to watch rentals, needing to finish a movie within 24 hours from when viewing is started. Hearst promised some titles would be available for streaming the same day they are released on DVDs.

YouTube, which was bought by Google in 2006 for \$1.65 billion, generates ad revenue from its trove of video offerings.

Google unveils online music service project



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) – Google on Tuesday launched an invitation-only test version of an online music service.

"When you add your music to the new service, you can listen to it on the Web on any compatible device," Google product manager Paul Joyce said while announcing the new service.

Google was getting around having to cut deals with music labels by crafting a service that lets people store digital and recommendation and recommendation and recommendation and recommendation around the recommendation and recommendation are recommendation.

versions of songs they own in an online "locker" they can access using gadgets linked to the Internet.

As many as 20,000 songs could be stored at Google Music, Joyce said at the Internet giant's annual developers conference in San Francisco.

Google Music began rolling out in the United States and was by invitation only. People could request invitations online at music.google.com.

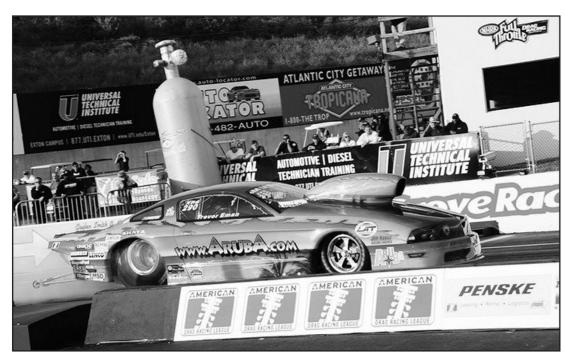


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Eman Turns Disapointments Into Renewed Focus



MAPLE GROVE, Pensylvania, Trevor Eman and Team Aruba were expecting bigger things of themselves at the ADRL Penske Inaugural Northeast Drags. The weekend got off to an unfortunate start before the team even made it to the track. Two miles from Maple Grove Raceway, the tow rig broke a driveshaft. It was an all-day event to get it fixed and to the track. Overcoming the difficulty, the team refocused their energies. They qualified a respectable 10th with a 4.098, less than .035 off the number one time. This is the quickest time with their new Jerry Haas Mustang.

"After our difficult trip to the track, it was nice to make it into the 4.0's in qualifying," Eman told. "This new car is working wonderfully for us and Kaase is providing great power. We hope that's just the first of many 4.0 runs. We know the car still has more in it."

In round one, Eman had to face off against the alwaystough Brian Gahm. "It was unfortunate that we had to pair up against Gahm, because that meant a Kaase-powered entry would go out in round one. We certainly weren't going to give Gahm any slack. However, complications in the water box caused for a bad burn out. It burnt through the clutch and the run became a victim to that."

To Eman's driving credit, he was first off the line with an .019 to Gahm's .033, but Gahm overtook Eman with a 4.101 to Eman's 4.173 for the win

However, Team Aruba is not letting a disappointing weekend hold them back. The team is already focusing on their next event, the Mountain Motor Nationals at Maryland International Raceway this coming weekend. The Mountain Motor Nationals will be held in conjunction with the 2011 kickoff for the Northeast Outlaw Pro Mod Association. making this event one of the few places where Mountain Motor Pro Stocks and Pro Mods can be seen running the full quarter mile in the same weekend. Eman joins some of the best in the business in heading to MIR for this historic event.

"We are really looking forward to racing at MIR. Royce Miller has always taken very good care of the Mountain Motor racers and we are grate-

ful for that. We love racing at his track. The facilities are top notch and the fans love their door-slammers there. It will, no doubt, be a great event. Hopefully we have all our bugs out of the way from this past weekend, and we can return to the quarter-mile with a great show for our Aruba.com fans!"

Fans, keep up with Team A r u b a a t www.facebook.com/tea-marubaracing. Find race results, team updates, videos and photos. Also leave your comments to cheer on Team Aruba!

For more on your Aruba vacation visit www.Aruba.com.

Giro d'Italia stage ends in tribute to cyclist



LIVORNO, Italy (AFP) – A poignant tribute to stricken rider Wouter Weylandt brought an end to the Giro d'Italia fourth stage Tuesday as the Belgian's Leopard-Trek team came across the finish line together.

Weylandt died in a fatal accident on Monday's third stage when he tumbled 20 metres to the road below as he negotiated a descent 25km from the finish line in Rapallo. Amid a huge outpouring of emotion, the peloton agreed not to race the fourth stage, instead riding at a pace which effectively neutralised the race for the entire 216 km between Genoa and Livorno.

As doctors prepared to carry out an autopsy which would later reveal that Weylandt died instantly, the peloton held a minute's silence before starting a procession that would last over six hours and finish half an hour later than scheduled.

AFP/Photo



Taj Maha

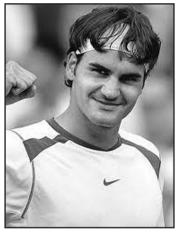
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Federer laments lack of top Americans in tennis



ROME, Italy (AFP) – Former world number one Roger Federer believes the current dearth of top class American players is bad for the game.

For the first time since the rankings were introduced no American is among the world's top ten in the men's or women's lists.

Federer, however, believes the United States is merely suffering from a general lack of emerging talent which can also be seen elsewhere.

"There are not that many teenagers in the top 100 so I think many countries are going through a phase where they do not have the talent they hoped to have," said the Swiss, who is currently ranked third in the world.

"Even in France, Germany, England or America, all those countries are struggling and waiting for an up and coming player like we always hope for like Rafa (Nadal), Novak (Djokovic) and myself, or (Andy) Roddick or (Michael) Chang.

"This is kind of missing at the moment and those countries have to be patient and this creates a lot of pressure on the people working in the federations and the media, especially in the bigger countries like America.

"It's going to be interesting to see how they get through it and I hope they are able to come along with some more big players -- especially for the States.

He added: "In the women's game I think we are all aware that if they wanted to or if they could play physically then (the Williams sisters) would be in the top 10 without any problems.

"It's worse on the men's side with just a few outsiders but it's a fact that it's the first time in history this has happened.

"It's a bit disappointing for us to not have any Americans in the top players because it is always great to play against American players and have American players in the game but Roddick remains a former number one in the world and a Grand Slam champion."

Federer added he was pleased with the restructuring of the calender this season to make Rome, rather than Madrid, the last clay event before the French Open.



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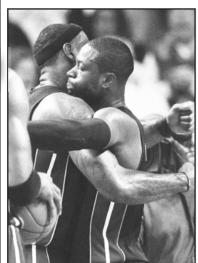
American League

American	LE	ayı	ue	
East	W	L	Pct	GB
NY YANKEES	19	13	.594	
TAMPA			.588	
			.486	
TORONTO	15	20	.429	5.5
BALTIMORE	14	19	.424	5.5
Central				
CLEVELAND	22	11	.667	
KANSAS CITY	18	16	.529	5.5
DETROIT				
CHICAGO	14	22	.389	9.5
MINNESOTA	12	21.	364	10.0
West				
LA ANGELES	20	16	.556	
OAKLAND	19	17	.528	1.0
TEXAS	18	18	.500	2.0
SEATTLE	16	19	.457	3.5
SEATTLE	10	19	.457	٠

National League

East		
PHILADELPHIA	23	11 .676
FLORIDA	20	14 .588 3.0
ATLANTA	20	16 .556 4.0
WASHINGTON	16	18 .471 7.0
NY METS	15	20 .429 8.5
Central		
ST. LOUIS	20	15 .571
CINCINNATI	19	16 .543 1.0
PITTSBURG		17 .514 2.0
CHICAGO	15	18 .455 4.0
MILWAUKEE	15	20 .429 5.0
HOUSTON	13	22 .371 7.0
West		
COLORADO	19	14 .576 -
SAN FRANCISCO	18	16 .529 1.5
ARIZONA	15	18 .455 4.0
LA DODGERS	16	20 .444 4.5
SAN DIEGO	14	21 .400 6.0

Heat push Celtics close to NBA playoff elimination



Dwyane Wade #3 and Le-**Bron James #6 of the Miami** Heat celebrate the win

BOSTON, Massachusetts (AFP) – LeBron James scored 35 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead Miami to a 98-90 overtime victory that put the Boston Celtics on the edge of elimination in the NBA playoffs.

Dwyane Wade scored 28 with nine rebounds and Chris Bosh had 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Heat, who took a three-games-to-one lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference secondround series.

The Heat host game five tonigh and can eliminate the defending Eastern Conference champions with a vic-

The Celtics know how difficult a task they face. Only eight times has a team come back to win a series after trailing 3-1.

'In our minds there's a lot of basketball to be played," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "It's going to be extremely hard. And if we're not up for it, we'll lose."

The winner of the series will play either Chicago or Atlanta in the Eastern Conference finals for a chance to face a team from the West

for the NBA crown.

The Heat's "Big Three" of James, Wade and Bosh lived up to their billing, scoring 83 of the Heat's 98 points with 35 of 45 rebounds.

The three had combined for just 44 points as Miami lost the previous contest in Boston after winning the first two games of the series at home.

Miami coach Erik Spoelstra, who has had the task of melding the three big talents into a team this season after James and Bosh decided to join fellow free agent Wade in Miami to pursue an NBA title, said the strong finish showed what the Heat had been working toward during a sometimes frustrating regular season.

'We've been through a lot of pain and heartache to get to a point where we feel confident at the end of games,' Spoelstra said, but added that he expected the Celtics to come back strong.

Thunder tie NBA playoffs with triple OT win



Kevin Durant #35 of the Oklahoma City Thunder celebrates during the game against the Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AFP) – Kevin Durant scored six of his 35 points in the third over-time as Oklahoma City won a Western Conference thriller 133-123 to tie their NBA playoff series with Memphis at two games each.

Oklahoma City regained the home-court advantage that the Grizzlies had snatched and now host game five tonight.

"This game is something

people going to be talking about for a while," Durant said. "I'm glad I'm a part of it."

"We've got to keep fighting though," Durant added. "It's tied up right now. We're taking it back to our house. So we'll see how we handle it."

Russell Westbrook led the Thunder with 40 points. James Harden added 19, and Daequan Cook chipped in 10.

The winner of this series will play the

Dallas Mavericks in the Western Conference finals for a chance to face a team from the East for the NBA crown.

The Mavericks have a chance to rest up after ousting the two-time defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers in the minimum four games.

The Memphis-Oklahoma City series, in contrast, is a dog-fight. Monday's nailbiter came just two days after the Grizzlies edged the Thunder in over-time.







Canucks beat Predators to reach NHL finals

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AFP) – Daniel Sedin and Mason Raymond scored in the first period and Roberto Luongo made 23 saves for Vancouver as the Canucks beat Nashville 2-1 to reach the NHL's Western Conference finals.

Vancouver, who boasted the best record in the NHL's regular season, won the best-of-seven series four-games-to-two and reached the conference finals for the first time since 1994.

time since 1994.

"Relief," Sedin's twin brother, Henrik, said of his emotion at the victory. "It was one of those series where they get on a roll and they

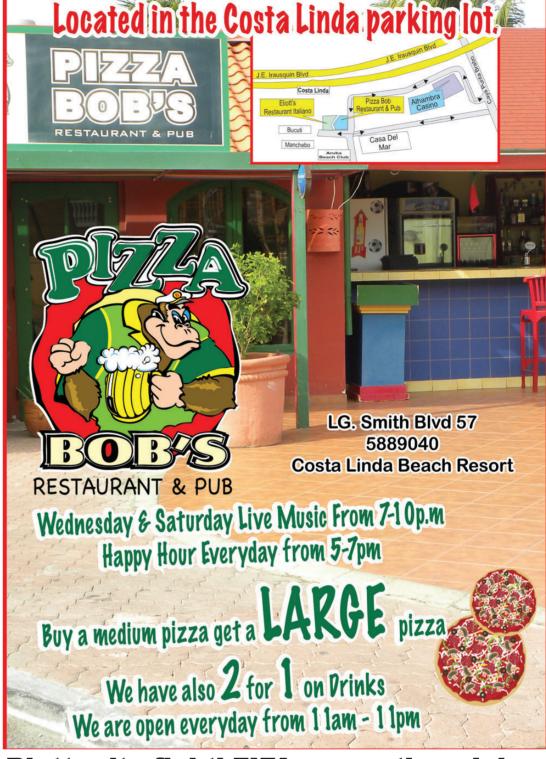
win this game, and all of a sudden there is a seventh game."

The Canucks had already been through that scenario in the first round, when they took a 3-0 series lead over defending Stanley Cup champions Chicago but needed the maximum seven games to oust the Blackhawks.

They'll face either the San Jose Sharks or Detroit in the conference finals for a chance to battle a team from the East in the Stanley Cup finals.

in the Stanley Cup finals.

Raymond gave the
Canucks a 1-0 lead 7:45 into
the game and Sedin made it
2-0 less than two minutes
later



Blatter 'to fight' FIFA corruption claims

LONDON (AFP) - FIFA chief Sepp Blatter vowed to address fresh allegations of corruption against football's governing body on Tuesday.

In comments reported by Sky Sports television, Blatter said he could not be held responsible for the conduct of

individual members.

"If this is true, I will fight this," Blatter was quoted by Sky as saying.

British members of parliament have said they would contact Blatter demanding an investigation into the latest evidence "as a matter of ur-

gency."

It came after the parliamentary committee heard evidence alleging six members of FIFA's executive committee had sought cash or honours ahead of the votes to decide the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.



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